

Hi, I'm Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor of the White River National Forest. This week I released the Draft EIS for Oil and Gas Leasing on the Forest. By law, we are required to make Forest lands available for oil and gas exploration and potential development. This analysis describes where, how, and when future lands will be leased for oil and gas exploration. It is based on state-of-the-art science and best management practices. Our charge was both to protect the resources under our stewardship and identify lands on the Forest which we deemed lawfully appropriate for providing for the energy needs of the American people. There are 4 alternatives to consider in this Draft. For the next 60 days, we will be accepting public comment on these alternatives, and we will take those comments and incorporate them into the final document and decision. Your comments are vital to this process. With your help, we will continue our legacy of meeting incredible challenge with passion and creativity. Thank you for your interest and involvement in this important project.